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Report On The Archeological Investigations For The City Of Lakeway's Justice Center Travis County, Texas

Josh Haefner

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REPORT ON THE ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LAKEWAY'S JUSTICE CENTER TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Written by:
Josh Haefner

ACT Permit #8067

Submitted to:
City of Lakeway
&
The Texas Historical Commission

Hicks & Company Archeology Series #286

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ABSTRACT

On June 23, 2017, Hicks & Company conducted an areal archeological survey of the 9.15-acre area of potential effects for the City of Lakeway's proposed Justice Center project. In addition to the main building facility, proposed construction includes an extension of Lohmans Spur, parking lots, barrier walls, a private wastewater grinder pump facility, a wastewater force main and water lines, and detention and water quality ponds. Construction of the building and parking lots requires a large portion of the site to be graded. This grading will vary from approximately ten feet of cut on the west side to ten feet of fill on the east side. The extension of Lohmans Spur will require up to 16 feet of fill because it crosses a stream and flood plain. During survey, a total of 25 shovel tests were excavated and segments of two previously recorded archeological sites that are mapped as being partially within the APE, Site 41TV1585 and 41TV1878, were visited. Surficial archeological deposits consisting of debitage, cores, and bifaces associated with Site 41TV1585 were observed; however, the segment of this site within the current project's APE is not considered eligible for listing as a State Antiquities Landmark according to criteria listed in 13 TAC 26.12 or for listing with the National Register of Historic Places. No cultural materials were noted within the small segment of Site 41TV1878 that is mapped within the current project's APE. No cultural materials greater than 50-years in age were observed in the remainder of the APE and all shovel tests were sterile for cultural materials. Based on the results of the current survey, it is recommended that no archeological or historic resources [36 CFR 800.16(1)] or SALs (13 TAC 26.12) will be affected by the proposed project. The project is recommended to proceed to construction with no further coordination required for archeological or historical resource related compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas.

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INTRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Pursuant to the Texas Historical Commission's (THC's) recommendation regarding the City of Lakeway's compliance responsibilities with the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT) (**Appendix A:** letter, Martin to Haefner, June 1, 2017), Hicks & Company archeologists, working on behalf of the City of Lakeway (the City), conducted archeological investigations for the proposed Lakeway Justice Center project located in Travis County, Texas (**Figure 1**). The total area of potential effects (APE) for this project is 9.15 acres including 0.4 acres of disturbance to construct off-site utility lines. In addition to the main building facility, current design plans include an extension of Lohmans Spur, parking lots, barrier walls, a private wastewater grinder pump facility, a wastewater force main and water lines, and detention and water quality ponds. To facilitate construction of the building and parking lots, a large portion of the site will be graded. This grading will vary from approximately ten feet of cut on the west side to ten feet of fill on the east side. The extension of Lohmans Spur will require approximately up to 16 feet of fill because it crosses a stream and flood plain.

In compliance with ACT Permit #8067, archeological investigations followed THC and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) guidelines for intensive areal survey with archeologists from Hicks & Company surveying 100 percent of the APE on foot in transects spaced 30 meters apart. During survey, a total of 25 shovel tests were excavated. Additionally, segments of two previously recorded archeological sites, Site 41TV1585 and 41TV1878 that are mapped as being partially within the APE, were visited. Surficial archeological deposits consisting of debitage, cores, and bifaces associated with Site 41TV1585 were observed; however, the segment of this site within the current project's APE is not considered eligible for listing as a State Antiquities Landmarks (SAL) according to criteria listed in 13 TAC 26.12 or for listing with the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No cultural materials were noted within the small segment of Site 41TV1878 that is mapped within the current project's APE. No cultural materials greater than 50-years in age were observed in the remainder of the APE and all shovel tests were sterile for cultural materials. Based on the results of the current survey, it is recommended that no archeological or historic resources [36 CFR 800.16(1)] or SALs (13 TAC 26.12) will be affected by the proposed project and no further archeological investigations are recommended prior to construction.

Fieldwork for the archeological survey was conducted on June 23, 2017, requiring approximately nine field hours to complete. Josh Haefner served as Principal Investigator for the project while Chris Lamon served as Project Archeologist. Josh Haefner authored the report. All project-generated notes, forms, and photographs will be curated at the Center for Archeological Studies Laboratory (CAS) in San Marcos, Texas. This report is offered in partial fulfillment of ACT Permit #8067.

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Figure 1

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ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

Physiography

The proposed project area is located in the North Central Plains region of Texas. This area is a heavily eroded surface of the Upper Paleozoic and is characterized by meandering rivers that have eroded softer shales and sandstones, creating gently rolling hills and plains. In areas of sandstone and limestone, erosion has created steep slopes and severely dissected riverine edges. The North Central Plains rise in elevation from 900 feet to 3,000 feet above sea level. Flora for the area transitions from mesquite and lotebush in the west to oak, ash, and juniper stands in the east.

Geology and Soils

The APE is located in an area mapped as the Upper Glenrose Limestone geological formation (BEG 2007) (**Figure 2**). The Upper Glenrose Limestone Formation dates to the Lower Cretaceous period and long predates the arrival of humans in the Americas; as such any cultural deposits in these areas are likely to be close to the surface in overlying sediment or on the surface itself. According to the United States Department of Agriculture's Web Soil Survey for Travis County, accessed on May 10, 2017, soils within the proposed project area consist of Brackett-Rock outcrop complex, 1 to 12 percent slopes; Tarrant soils, 5 to 18 percent slopes; Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes; and Volente silty clay loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes (**Figure 2**). The Brackett-Rock, Tarrant, and Denton series are formed from residuum weathered from limestone. Volente soils are formed from alluvium derived from limestone and are located on stream terraces. Abbott (2013) notes that the Brackett-Rock and Tarrant soil series have low geoarcheological potential at any depth while the Denton series has low to moderate potential to three feet in depth and low thereafter. This series has low to moderate geoarcheological potential at any depth.

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Figure 2

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CULTURAL BACKGROUND

The project area is located within the Central Texas Archeological Region. Most of the recent chronologies for Central Texas are based on six distinct time periods, roughly representing a 12,000-year sequence of occupation. A synthesis of the culture-historical sequences provided by Collins (2004) and Johnson (1995) is as follows: Paleoindian (prior to 8800 BP), Early Archaic (8800–5800 BP), Middle Archaic (5800–4000 BP), Late Archaic (4000–1400 BP), Post-Archaic or Late Prehistoric (AD 600–1600), and Historic (AD 1600 to present). Although these divisions represent convenient temporal categories, they are also based in large part on perceived adaptations in subsistence and are reflected in changes in lithic and other technologies.

Paleoindian (prior to 8800 BP)

The Early Paleoindian culture in South and Central Texas is believed to be related to the well-known big game hunting tradition of the Great Plains (Hester 1980). Most of the well-documented Early Paleoindian sites in Texas that are associated with extinct megafauna are located north and west of Central Texas on the Llano Estacado and adjacent areas of the Southern High Plains. In general, Early Paleoindian sites are scarce in Central Texas, or at least less visible than later sites. Conversely, later Paleoindian sites are much more numerous in South and Central Texas, although both are usually identified from only surface-collected artifacts (Black and McGraw 1985). Subsistence data from several Late Paleoindian sites does suggest, however, that small game was exploited in addition to extinct megafauna. This data supports the idea that a hunting and gathering lifestyle may have already been adopted across much of Central Texas prior to the Early Archaic period.

Paleoindian occupations in Central Texas have typically been associated with lanceolate projectile points such as Clovis, Folsom, Plainview, Golondrina, and Meserve and stemmed points such as Scottsbluff (Turner and Hester 1993). Recent investigations at the Wilson Leonard Site (41WM235) (Collins 2004) equate three styles of projectiles, Golondrina/Barber, St. Mary's Hall and Wilson, to the Late Paleoindian period. The Wilson component is dated at 10,000 to 9650 BP and is associated with features, artifacts, and a burial that are more Archaic-like in nature than Paleoindian (Collins 2004). The data from 41WM235 further suggests that the Archaic nature of the adaptation continues during the ensuing Golondrina/Barber and St. Mary's Hall components. These are dated between 9500 and 8800 BP and may represent a transitional period between the Paleoindian and the Archaic.

Early Archaic (ca. 8800–5800 BP)

The Early Archaic period is subdivided into three projectile point style intervals: Angostura, Early Split Stem and Martindale/Uvalde, from 8800 to 6000 BP (Collins 2004). Generally, the shift from Paleoindian to Archaic subsistence strategies is measured by a change in technology focused on the use of burned rocks to process geophyte plant foods. This shift is traced back as early as 8800 BP at the Wilson-Leonard Site and at roughly comparable ages at several other Central Texas sites (Decker et al. 1999; Thoms et al. 1996). At these sites, evidence for the use of earth ovens and burned rock technologies for processing plant foods is associated with lanceolate Angostura projectile points. Hence, the use of Angostura and Late Paleoindian lithic

technologies may have continued into the Early Archaic period for a time but were gradually replaced by the bifurcate base split-stem and Martindale/Uvalde styles.

The Early Archaic period marks a shift to the use of burned limestone and other rocks in the form of scatters, hearths, middens and other features for the heated processing of plant foods. This represents the start of a long-lived Archaic cooking tradition, lasting from roughly 8800 to 1400 BP. This tradition was characterized by the repeated utilization of earth ovens and the resulting creation of burned rock middens at strategic places on the landscape. These new subsistence practices began with a distinctive cooking technology using layered arrangements of heated rocks in earth ovens, allowing for exploitation of a broad range of geophytes. These included upland xerophytic plants like sotol (*Dasylirion wheeleri*) and other species such as Lily family (Liliaceae) onion bulbs, which grow in wetter environments (Decker et al. 1999).

Some of the most recent climatic reconstructions for the period posit a moist and cool Late Pleistocene environment with early to mid-Holocene shifts to drier conditions that became most pronounced during the mid-Holocene (5000–7000 BP) (Ricklis and Collins 1994). In contrast, Johnson (1995) suggests that the relatively mesic conditions of the eastern Edwards Plateau during the Pleistocene and early Holocene/Paleoindian period underwent a brief dry interval during Late Paleoindian times, later returning to more mesic conditions during the ensuing Early Archaic period (ca.8000–5800 BP). Whether the Early Archaic climate reflects a gradual drying period (Ricklis and Collins 1994) or a more mesic interval within an overall, long-lived trend toward aridity along the eastern Edwards Plateau, it appears that the use of burned rock midden technologies for plant food and other types of subsistence related processing began during this period and continued for many thousands of years.

Overall, the bulk of the Central Texas archeological literature suggests that the Early Archaic occupations were generally small, widely distributed, and non-specialized (Black and McGraw 1985). Explanations for these characteristics support a generalized hunting-gathering strategy involving relatively high group mobility, poorly defined territories, and short-term occupations. Broad spectrum, well-adapted, highly mobile subsistence strategies are theorized.

Middle Archaic (5800–4000 BP)

The Middle Archaic marks an intensification of the use of burned rock technologies to process plants and other types of foods within an increasingly arid environment. Ricklis and Collins (1994) recognize a pronounced mid-Holocene drying event from 7000 to 5000 BP, though it may have lasted longer. Johnson (1995) posits the occurrence of a dry Edwards Interval along the eastern Edwards Plateau from roughly 5500 to 1400 BP. Evidence for this is seen in the cessation of significant overbank sediment aggradation at a number of Central Texas sites. Instead of deposition, arid conditions catalyzed extensive downcutting and erosion along many Central Texas streams. Hypothetically, dry conditions would have promoted the spread of desert succulent xerophytic plants and fostered the increased use of burned rock middens. Drier conditions may also have engendered the return of the American bison (*Bison bison*) to the plateau during the Middle and Late Archaic periods. Furthermore, the proliferation of Bell/Andice/Calf Creek projectile point styles at the beginning of the Middle Archaic may have coincided with the return of bison to the Edwards Plateau and the adjacent Blackland Prairie; these broad bladed points have been associated with the exploitation of bison within

archeological literature. Additional Middle Archaic projectile point styles include Early Triangular, Nolan, and Travis.

Late Archaic (4000–1400 BP)

Recent refinements in the Central Texas chronology divide the Late Archaic interval into two different subperiods (Johnson 1995). The Late Archaic I interval is marked by the appearance of Bulverde projectile points, which along with later forms (Pedernales, Castroville, Marshall and Montell) were used to hunt bison and other large game. Burned rock middens continued to proliferate during the Late Archaic I interval. The resources processed via burned rock technology may have included species of yucca (*Yucca* spp.), sotol, and perhaps *Agave lechuguilla*. Other middens may simply be dumps for kitchen-type debris, which contain sizeable quantities of animal bones, broken stone tools, and flint-knapping detritus (Johnson 1995). Pedernales peoples in particular may have been adept at both hunting and the processing of large volumes of plant food materials.

The Late Archaic II interval (1400 BP) may have been a time of increasingly mesic conditions for all but the western and southwestern portions of the Edwards Plateau (Johnson 1995). The onset of more mesic conditions may have resulted in decreased numbers of upland xerophytic plants and perhaps bison (Johnson 1995), which may have forced adjustments in prehistoric subsistence strategies. There appears to be a decrease in the number of burned rock middens that can be directly attributable to the Late Archaic II interval. The projectile points used at this time are smaller and are characterized by such styles as Ensor, Fairland, Frio and Darl. Evidence suggests the large projectiles well-adapted to bison hunting may have been gradually replaced. Also, it has been posited that the spread of Eastern Woodland religious cults may have had an influence on the Late Archaic II peoples of Central Texas (Johnson 1995).

Late Prehistoric (ca. AD 600–1600)

The Late Prehistoric or Post-Archaic (AD 600–1600) (Johnson 1995) in Central Texas is initially marked by the replacement of the dart and atlatl with the bow and arrow, as reflected in the shift from dart points to smaller, thinner and lighter arrow points (Ricklis and Collins 1994). Despite the shift to the bow and arrow, there is strong indication that the broad based hunting-gathering economy of the Late Archaic persisted into and throughout most of the Late Prehistoric period in Central Texas. The latter part of this period is marked by the appearance of pottery and a distinctive complex of tools composed of contracting-stem Perdiz arrow points, an abundance of unifacial end scrapers, thin, alternately beveled bifacial knives, and drills or perforators made of flakes and blades. The Post-Archaic era again turned dry and somewhat arid toward the middle of the Late Prehistoric, during which a dramatic increase in bison exploitation suggests it became an increasingly important economic activity during the latter part of this period.

Historic Period (AD 1528–Present)

The most radical changes in the Native American history of Central Texas came during the historic era (Black 1989). The historic period in Texas begins with the arrival of Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca and other survivors of the Navarez expedition on the Texas coast in 1528. The influences of European colonization were not felt strongly in Texas until several centuries later.

By the middle of the eighteenth century, the Spanish had established missions in East Texas and settlements in South Texas. This resulted in massive depopulation and cultural disintegration among Native American groups.

The horse was introduced into North America by Spanish settlers in the sixteenth century; nomadic groups, initially the Apaches and later the Comanches, adopted the horse and rapidly altered the aboriginal situation of Central Texas. These nomadic groups entered Central Texas from the plains and mountains to the north and west and within 150 years had forced most of the native peoples to flee. Most groups were destroyed by the combined effects of the nomadic raiders and the foreign diseases introduced by Europeans. Others moved south, entering Spanish missions and settlements, or eastward to join various agricultural groups such as the Wichita (Black 1989).

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS AND RECORDED SITES AND CEMETERIES

According to the THC's Online Sites Atlas (the Atlas) accessed on May 10, 2017, six archeological resource surveys have been conducted within one kilometer of the APE (**Figure 3**). These surveys include: a linear survey conducted in 1999 by Hicks & Company on behalf of Travis County of the Lohmans Crossing Road alignment that bounds the southern extent of the proposed project area; a linear survey conducted in 1987 of the Ranch Road 620 South alignment by the Federal Highway Administration; a linear survey conducted in 1995 under the auspices of the Lower Colorado River Authority; a survey of five separate, but closely located parcels, by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in 1999; an areal survey conducted by TWDB in 2003; and a linear survey conducted along the Flint Rock Road alignment by AmaTerra in 2013.

According to the Atlas, there are five previously recorded archeological sites located within one kilometer of the APE: 41TV509, 41TV1585, 41TV1586, 41TV1781, and 41TV1878 (**Figure 3**). Site 41TV509 was recorded by Espey Huston and Associates in 1979 and is located approximately 950 meters west of the proposed project area. It consists of a lithic scatter and the remains of a burned rock midden and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has made no determination regarding its eligibility. Site 41TV1585 was recorded by TWDB in 1991 and is described as a prehistoric open campsite with a diffuse lithic scatter. The boundaries of this site overlap the western extent of the proposed project area. The SHPO has determined that Site 41TV1585 is ineligible for listing in the NRHP. Site 41TV1586 is located 730 meters to the southwest of the APE and is described as a single isolated arrow point found by Mr. Randy Howard in 1991. According to the Atlas, the artifact was collected for x-ray florescence analysis and then returned to the land owner. Site 41TV1781 is located approximately 500 meters south of the APE. This site was recorded in 1996 by the TWDB. The SHPO has made no determination regarding the eligibility of this site. Recorded by Hicks & Company in 1999, Site 41TV1878 overlaps the APE at its southeastern extent. This site is described as a multi-component site, consisting of widely scattered lithic debitage and a dense scatter of historic (early 20th century) kitchen debris. The SHPO has determined that the components of this site located within the right of way of Lohmans Crossing Road are ineligible for listing in the NRHP.

The Maul Cemetery is located approximately 100 meters south of the southern boundary of the proposed APE, on the opposite side of Lohmans Crossing Road. This cemetery was once part of the Maul Ranch (Austin Genealogical Society 2016). Ten known graves are present in this cemetery, the earliest of which dates to 1883. The proposed project will not impact this cemetery.

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Figure 3 redacted due to sensitive site location data

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METHODOLOGY

For this project, Hicks & Company proposed to conduct pedestrian survey of the APE, supplemented by shovel testing in areas of less than 30-percent ground visibility. The project area is unlikely to possess good geoarcheological potential at depths greater than a meter. Therefore, in coordination with the THC, it was determined that backhoe trenching is unwarranted for this project.

For shovel testing, the project area was tested at a rate that exceeded two subsurface tests per every two acres, in accordance with the THC's minimum standards for intensive areal survey. Investigators recorded their observations and the results of shovel tests through notes, standardized shovel test forms, and photographs. Shovel tests were excavated to a depth of one meter or bedrock, and sediment from all shovel tests was screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth. Shovel test locations were recorded utilizing GPS technology. The survey followed a no-collection policy in which artifacts were recorded, identified, and quantified in the field but returned to their find location.

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RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

On June 23, 2017, Hicks & Company archeologists performed a 100-percent intensive archeological survey supplemented by shovel testing of the proposed 9.15-acre APE for the city of Lakeway's proposed new Justice Center. Twenty-five shovel tests were excavated during survey with all tests negative for cultural material greater than 50-years in age (**Figure 4**). All shovel tests terminated between 5 and 20 centimeters below the surface at bedrock. Much of the APE was noted as having greater than 30-percent ground visibility with large swaths of exposed bedrock (**Figure 5**) while other areas of ground surface in wooded areas were noted as being covered in leaf-litter (**Figure 6**). Two streams (Yaupon Creek and an unnamed tributary) cross the APE, travelling roughly north to south near the western extent of the project area. Since they are incised into the bedrock, any associated alluvial sediment deposits have long since eroded away (**Figure 7**).

Segments of two previously recorded archeology sites, Site 41TV1585 and Site 41TV1878, were evaluated during the investigations. Archeological deposits were noted at 41TV1585 though, while nine shovel tests (CTL05–CTL11, JJH05, and JJH10) were conducted within the site boundary, these were limited to a surface expression consisting of a light lithic scatter of debitage, a single biface, and two lithic cores mixed in with gravel deposits (**Figure 8**). These deposits are not considered eligible for listing as a SAL according to criteria listed in 13 TAC 26.12 or for listing with the NRHP. Two shovel tests (JJH12 and JJH13) were conducted within the boundary of Site 41TV1878 with both negative for cultural materials of any age. Additionally, no surface deposits greater than 50 years in age were noted at Site 41TV1878.

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Figure 5: Exposed bedrock typical of the APE. Photo taken near APE center.

Figure 6: Tree stands and leaf litter, facing south from Shovel Test CTL04.

Figure 7: Overview of stream within project area. Facing south form center-east of APE.

Figure 8: Overview of Site 41TV1585, facing south west from CTL08.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 23, 2017, Hicks & Company conducted an areal archeological survey of the 9.15-acre APE for the City of Lakeway's proposed Justice Center project. During survey, a total of 25 shovel tests were excavated and segments of two previously recorded archeological sites that are mapped as being partially within the APE, Site 41TV1585 and 41TV1878, were visited. Surficial archeological deposits consisting of debitage, cores, and bifaces associated with Site 41TV1585 were observed though the segment of this site within the current project's APE are not considered eligible for listing as an SAL according to criteria listed in 13 TAC 26.12 or for listing with the National Register of Historic Places. No cultural materials were noted within the small segment of Site 41TV1878 that is mapped within the current project's APE. For the remainder of the APE, no cultural materials greater than 50-years in age were observed and all shovel tests were sterile for cultural materials. Based on the results of the current survey, it is recommended that no archeological or historic resources [36 CFR 800.16(1)] or SALs (13 TAC 26.12) will be affected by the proposed project. The project is recommended to proceed to construction with no further coordination for archeological or historical resources required for compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas. In the unlikely event that archeological resources are identified during the course of construction, all work in the immediate vicinity should cease until the THC is notified and appropriate actions are determined. All project-related materials will be permanently curated at the Center for Archeology Studies in San Marcos, Texas.

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APPENDIX A

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION LETTER

JUN - 8 2017

June 1, 2017

Josh Haefner
Hicks & Company
1504 West 5th Street
Austin, TX 78703

Re: Project review under the Antiquities Code of Texas: Antiquities Code Coordination for City of Lakeway Justice Center, Travis County (City of Lakeway; Track #201707103)

Dear Mr. Haefner:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Tiffany Osburn, has examined our records. According to our maps, much of the tract proposed for development has never been surveyed by a professional archeologist. Please hire a professional archeologist to survey the project area.

The work should meet the minimum archeological survey standards posted on-line at www.thc.state.tx.us. A report of investigations should be produced in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and submitted to this office for review. You may obtain lists of most professional archeologists in Texas on-line at: www.c-tx-arch.org or www.rpanet.org. Please note that other potentially qualified archeologists not included on these lists may be used.

Since the survey is being performed on public land or within a public easement your contract archeologist must obtain an Antiquities Permit from our office before any investigations are undertaken. An Antiquities Permit can be issued as soon as we have a completed permit application.

Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Tiffany Osburn at 512/463-8883 or tiffany.osburn@thc.state.tx.us.**

Sincerely,

William A. Martin

for
Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/to